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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/092,623

03/08/2002

Taku Ishizawa

Q68827

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06/25/2002

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EXAMINER

VO, ANH T N

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2861

DATE MAILED: 06/25/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
10/092,623

Applicant(s)

ISHIZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

ANH VO

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Mar 8, 2002

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.

2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-31 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-31 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3

6) ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement is made of the receipt of Preliminary Amendment filed 08 March 2002.

Oath/Declaration

The declaration filed 08 March 2002 is acceptable.

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

The references cited on PTO 1449 have been considered.

Specification

The specification has been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. However, the applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 24-28 are rejected under 35 USC 102 (a) as being anticipated by Yoshizawa et al. (JP 08230204A).

Yoshizawa et al. disclose in Figures 1-4 an ink cartridge comprising:

- an ink pack press member (4a) which is housed in the cartridge case (3, 4) along with the ink pack (1) and which adjusts the volume of ink to be filled into the ink pack in accordance with the volume of the press member (4a) (Figures 1-2);
- wherein the ink pack (1) is formed into a substantially rectangular shape and into a bag by sealing four sides of the ink pack; wherein the press member (4a) housed in the cartridge case (3, 4) along with the ink pack (1) is formed into a frame shape having a window opening in a central portion thereof; and wherein the four sides of the ink pack (1) are pressed by the frame-shaped press member (4a);
- wherein parts of the press member (4a) opposing the four sides of the ink pack (1) are gradually reduced in thickness toward the window opening to define slope surfaces (Figures 1-2);
- wherein the slope surfaces are curved (Figures 1-2).
- wherein the press member (4a) is formed from resilient material. (Figure 1);
- wherein the cartridge case (3, 4) includes a first case (3) and a second case (4) which are served as covers (Figure 2).

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior arts are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 29-31 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Barinaga (US Pat. 6,030,074) in view of Yoshizawa et al. (JP 08230204A) and Nakazawa et al. (EP Pat. 0928694).

Barinaga discloses in Figure 1 an apparatus for delivering pressurized ink to a print head comprising:

- the cartridge case (10, 19) is hermetically formed (Figure 1);
- an ink pack (13) of flexible material storing ink (16) therein, the ink pack being housed within the outer shell (10, 19) (Figure 1);
- the case defined between the outer shell member (10, 19) and the ink pack (13) and adapted to receive the pressurized air (73) produced by the air pressurization pump when the ink cartridge is mounted to the recording apparatus (76) (Figure 1);
- wherein the cartridge case (10, 19) includes a first case (10) and a second case (19) which are served as covers (Figure 1).

However, Barinaga does not disclose an ink cartridge comprising an ink pack press member which is housed in the cartridge case along with the ink pack and which adjusts the volume of ink to be filled into the ink pack in accordance with the volume of the press member;

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However, Barinaga does not disclose an ink cartridge comprising an ink pack press member which is housed in the cartridge case along with the ink pack and which adjusts the volume of ink to be filled into the ink pack in accordance with the volume of the press member; wherein the press member is formed from resilient material; an edge of an opening of the first case is sealed by a film member; at least one lug-shaped member is formed on the second case; wherein a tapered surface and an engagement step section are formed on the lug-shaped member such that, when the second case is attached to the first case, a flange section formed on the edge of the first case is relatively guided by and along the tapered surface to engage with the engagement step section.

Nevertheless, Yoshizawa et al. disclose in Figures 1-4 an ink cartridge comprising:

- an ink pack press member (4a) which is housed in the cartridge case (3, 4) along with the ink pack (1) and which adjusts the volume of ink to be filled into the ink pack in accordance with the volume of the press member (4a) (Figures 1-2);
- wherein the press member (4a) is formed from resilient material (Figure 1).

Furthermore, Nakazawa et al. disclose in Figures 1 and 3 an ink cartridge comprising:

- an edge of an opening (47) of the first case (40) is sealed by a film member (56);
- at least one lug-shaped member (55) is formed on the second case (50);
- wherein a tapered surface (55) and an engagement step section are formed on the lug-shaped member such that, when the second case (50) is attached to the first case (40), a flange section (46) formed on the edge of the first case (40) is relatively guided by and along the tapered surface to engage with the engagement step section.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having

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ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching of Yoshizawa et al and Nakazawa et al. in the Barinaga ink jet recording apparatus for the purpose of providing ribs on a surface of an ink cartridge case to prevent the damage due to vibration or impact during transport.

CONCLUSION

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner Anh Vo whose telephone number is (703) 305-8194. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:30 P.M..

The fax number of this Group 2861 is (703) 305-3431 or 305-3432.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.


ANH T.N. VO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

June 20, 2002